

MILPER Message # 08-081
MILPER MESSAGE NUMBER : 08-081
AHRC-PED-S
POST-DEPLOYMENT HEALTH REASSESSMENT REFERRAL
AND LINE OF DUTY POLICY FOR RESERVE COMPONENT SOLDIERS
...Issued: [03/19/2008]...

A. MILPER MESSAGE 04-341, 28 JUN 03, SUBJECT: LINE OF DUTY (LOD) CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS POLICY.

B. MILPER MESSAGE 05-273, 03 NOV 05, SUBJECT: LINE OF DUTY (LOD) POST DEPLOYMENT HEALTH REASSESSMENT POLICY.

C. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS MEMORANDUM, 10 MARCH 2005, SUBJECT: POST-DEPLOYMENT HEALTH REASSESSMENT PROGRAM.

1. THIS MESSAGE SUPPLEMENTS AR 600-8-4, LINE OF DUTY POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND INVESTIGATIONS; SUPERCEDES REFERENCE B; AND WILL EXPIRE 30 NOVEMBER 2009.

2. RESERVE COMPONENT (RC) SOLDIERS (USAR AND ARNG) WHO HAVE RETURNED FROM DEPLOYMENT IN A COMBAT ZONE MUST BE EVALUATED BY A MEDICAL PROVIDER (PHYSICIAN, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, OR NURSE PRACTITIONER) DURING THE COMPLETION OF A POST-DEPLOYMENT HEALTH REASSESSMENT (PDHRA). AN INITIAL DA FORM 2173, STATEMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND DUTY STATUS, IS REQUIRED FOR FURTHER MEDICAL CONSULTATION.

3. THE UNIT COMMANDER, COMMANDER'S DESIGNEE, OR AN AUTHORIZED PDHRA SCREENER WILL INITIATE AND COMPLETE THE DA FORM 2173, STATEMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND DUTY STATUS. THIS INITIAL DA FORM 2173 AUTHORIZES AN EVALUATION APPOINTMENT OR APPOINTMENTS FOR INJURY, ILLNESS, OR CONDITION CLAIMED AND IDENTIFIED DURING THE PDHRA. SINCE THE PDHRA DOES NOT PROVIDE DIAGNOSIS OR TREATMENT, THE PURPOSE OF THIS EVALUATION APPOINTMENT IS TO VALIDATE INJURY, ILLNESS, OR CONDITION CLAIMED AND IDENTIFIED DURING THE PDHRA AND TO ULTIMATELY PROVIDE A MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS, PENDING FURTHER TREATMENT.

A. THE MEDICAL PROVIDER, AS IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 2, WILL COMPLETE SECTION I OF THE DA FORM 2173.

B. SECTION II, BLOCK 30, WILL SPECIFY: "SOLDIER REQUIRES FURTHER MEDICAL EVALUATION IAW WITH PDHRA DIRECTIVE. THIS INITIAL DA FORM 2173 DOES NOT COMPRISE A FINDING OF 'IN THE LINE OF DUTY' AND ONLY AUTHORIZES A SOLDIER WHO WAS ELIGIBLE FOR AND COMPLETED THE PDHRA TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT(S) FOR EVALUATION AND DIAGNOSIS OF AN INJURY, ILLNESS, OR CONDITION CLAIMED AND IDENTIFIED DURING THE PDHRA."

C. THE UNIT COMMANDER, THE RESERVE COMPONENT MEDICAL AUTHORITY (READY RESERVE COMPONENT SURGEON, STATE SURGEON OR DESIGNEE) OR HIS/HER DESIGNEE WILL SIGN PART II OF INITIAL DA FORM 2173. THE SIGNATURE VERIFIES THE SOLDIER'S PARTICIPATION IN A CONTINGENCY OPERATION. THE SIGNER DOES NOT HAVE TO HAVE BEEN THE COMMANDER DURING THE SOLDIER'S DEPLOYMENT. ADDITIONALLY, THE INITIAL DA FORM 2173 DOES NOT COMPRISE A FINDING OF "IN THE LINE OF DUTY" AND ONLY AUTHORIZES A SOLDIER WHO HAS DEPLOYED TO A CONTINGENCY OPERATION AND COMPLETED THE PDHRA TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT FOR EVALUATION AND DIAGNOSIS.

4. ONCE THE EVALUATION APPOINTMENT IS COMPLETED, THE RESERVE COMPONENT MEDICAL AUTHORITY (READY RESERVE COMPONENT SURGEON, STATE SURGEON OR DESIGNEE) WILL REVIEW THE RESULTS OF THE MEDICAL EVALUATION REFERENCED IN PARAGRAPH 3. THE UNIT COMMANDER, COMMANDER'S DESIGNEE, OR AN AUTHORIZED PDHRA SCREENER WILL INITIATE A NEW DA FORM 2173, STATEMENT OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND DUTY STATUS, IAW AR 600-8-4, TO DOCUMENT THE FINDING OF "IN THE LINE OF DUTY" (ILOD). THE

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NEW DA FORM 2173 INITIATED AS A RESULT OF AN INJURY, ILLNESS, OR CONDITION IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE PDHRA PROGRAM SHOULD BE PROCESSED AS AN INFORMAL LINE OF DUTY, IAW AR 600-8-4, UNLESS MISCONDUCT OR NEGLIGENCE IS INDICATED.

A. A MEDICAL PROVIDER, AS IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 2, WILL COMPLETE SECTION I OF THE NEW DA FORM 2173 BASED ON NOTES FROM THE EVALUATION APPOINTMENT BY THE RESERVE COMPONENT MEDICAL AUTHORITY (READY RESERVE COMPONENT SURGEON, STATE SURGEON OR DESIGNEE).

B. THE RC MEDICAL AUTHORITY WILL COMPLETE BLOCK 15 OF THE NEW DA FORM 2173 AND WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "THE SOLDIER HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED FOR (LIST DIAGNOSIS) WHICH WAS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE PDHRA SCREENING AND EVALUATION PROCESS AS DUTY RELATED." LIST ANY ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES, EVENTS, OR HISTORY ASSOCIATED WITH THE IDENTIFIED CONDITION, IF AVAILABLE.

C. BLOCK 30 OF THE NEW DA FORM 2173 WILL PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE ACCIDENT OR EVENTS THAT LED TO THE DIAGNOSIS. IF NO SPECIFIC EVENT OR INCIDENT CAN BE REFERENCED OR IDENTIFIED, INCLUDE THE STATEMENT: "SOLDIER HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED FOR A CONDITION IDENTIFIED IAW SECDEF PDHRA DIRECTIVE."

D. THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY, STATE ADJUTANT GENERAL, OR HIGHER AUTHORITY WILL APPROVE PART II OF THE NEW DA FORM 2173 (AR 600-8-4, PARA 1-11, IAW AR 600-8-4, PARA 2-4).

5. THE UNIT COMMANDER OR HIS/HER DESIGNEE WILL FORWARD ALL DA FORM 2173 PROCESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS POLICY TO THE MILITARY MEDICAL SUPPORT OFFICE (MMSO) VIA FAX (847-688-6460 OR 6137 OR 6138) OR AUTOMATED LINE OF DUTY PROCESSING MODULE OF THE MEDICAL OPERATIONAL DATABASE (AS AVAILABLE) TO ENSURE THE SOLDIER IS NOT BILLED FOR MEDICAL EVALUATION / TREATMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR CONTINGENCY DEPLOYMENT AND/OR PDHRA SCREENING. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT MMSO SERVICES, FOR LINE OF DUTY RELATED CARE, MAY BE FOUND AT [HTTP://WWW.TRICARE.MIL/MMSO](http://www.TRICARE.MIL/MMSO) UNDER "HOW TO ACCESS MMSO SERVICES." THIS INCLUDES INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR CONTINUING CARE, HOW TO HAVE A MEDICAL BILL REMOVED FROM A CREDIT REPORT, AND HOW TO OBTAIN REIMBURSEMENT FOR PRE-PAID OUT-OF-POCKET MEDICAL BILLS.

6. POINTS OF CONTACT. LTC KAREN WHITMAN AT ARMY G-1, DSN 664-0669, COMMERCIAL, (703) 604-0669. EMAIL ADDRESS: KAREN.WHITMAN@HQDA.ARMY.MIL OR MRS. COURDUFF AT ARMY CASUALTY AND MORTUARY AFFAIRS OPERATIONS CENTER (CMAOC), DSN 221-5302, COMMERCIAL (703)325-5302 OR BY FAX AT EXTENSION - 1844. EMAIL ADDRESS: GISELA.COURDUFF@US.ARMY.MIL

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